



May 31, 2005

The Honorable William M. Thomas
United States House of Representatives
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0521

RE: DR-CA FTA

Dear Congressman Thomas:

The California League of Food Processors (CLFP) supports the Free Trade Agreement with the Dominican Republic and Central America (DR-CA FTA). The CLFP represents the vast majority of fruit and vegetable processors in California. Our member companies can, freeze, dry, and dehydrate fruits and vegetables.

Most of the crops our members process are highly impacted by low-cost subsidized imports from around the world. The CLFP is supportive of the DR-CA FTA because it is an opportunity to provide a more equal competitive playing field. Several segments of the California food processing industry, specifically, processing tomatoes, peaches and pears, see opportunities in the Central American region if this Agreement is approved.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Yates', written over a horizontal line.

Ed Yates
President/CEO

EDY:lg